

10:00 – BAS Holy Eucharist **Licensed Lay Minister:** Stephen Hamlin

Opening Hymn – Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Gathering of the Community

Trisagion

Collect of the Day: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Proclamation of the Word:

Isaiah 64: 1-9 (Faye Kennedy)

Psalms 80: 1-7, 16-18

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 (Elaine MacInnis)

Gradual Hymn – Christ Be Our Light

Gospel: Mark 13: 24-37 (Natasha Bejarano)

Homily – Rev. Lori

Apostles Creed

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

The Peace

Offering Hymn – Come Thou Almighty King

Prayer over the Gifts: God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Celebration of the Eucharist #1

Sanctus

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread #5

Lamb of God (sung)

Communion Hymn – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Ablutions Hymn – We Are Waiting For You

Prayer after Communion

Doxology

Blessing

Closing Hymn – City of God

Dismissal

May the Lord

Chancel Guild: Volunteers

Greeters: Sandy Rudolph, Leona Hunt, Sarah Lennerton

In lieu of Altar Flowers, a donation has been made to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents and other departed family members from Jim and Laurel MacIntosh.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tuesday, Dec. 5th – Men's Fellowship Group 10:00 a.m.
Index Drop Off 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 6th – Choir 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 7th – Pastoral Ministry 1:00 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 8th – Meditation 10:00 a.m.
Lectionary Bible Study 11:00 a.m.

Next Sunday, Dec. 10th – Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion BCP

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist BAS

7:00 p.m. Peace Service

Community Dinner: St. John's is responsible (along with several other churches) for a sit-down turkey dinner taking place in our hall on Saturday, Dec. 16th. Sign up posters are at the back of the church for the food and volunteer help we will need for that day. Please help in any way you can as we provide this nourishing festive meal for our neighbours in any kind of need.

Next dates for **8:00 a.m. BCP Communion** – Dec. 10th and Jan. 14th.

Next **Coffee Hour** – Jan. 7th.

Our last **Sunday School** date for the fall term will be Dec. 17th.

Office Hours Change: Our parish office is now open Monday – Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

2024 Offering Envelopes are now available at the back of the church.

Advent begins TODAY! Please join us for coffee hour as we kick off our Advent season with **“How Sweet the Name”**; an at-home learning resource focused on the names of Jesus. Each week, we invite you to take home a Christmas ornament and reflect on the meaning of the name featured on the ornament. Bring it back with you the next Sunday, if you wish, and take a different ornament home with you. Over the season, you will learn about several of the sacred names of Jesus and make one ornament yours to keep.

We will also be gifting each household with an inter-generational Advent calendar called **“Slow Down. Quiet. It’s Advent”** for use throughout the season. It is filled with creative ideas and reflections, questions, prayers and activities to help you make time to grow your spirit and draw closer to God as you prepare for Christmas.

Advent Word: Again this year, many of us will be following Advent Word; an online Advent resource that gives a word prompt, image and reflection for each day from Dec. 3 – 25. Sign up online at adventword.org to have the daily Word delivered to your inbox.

Peace Service: Join us on Sunday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. for a service of quiet prayer, reflection and music as we pray for peace in Israel and Palestine, Ukraine and Russia, and around the world.

We have launched our annual shoebox program for the **Mission to Seafarers**. The list of requested items for the boxes is: work gloves/mitts, shampoo, shaving cream, deodorant, socks, hard candy/chocolate, toothpaste & toothbrush, razors, lip balm, playing cards, small memento of NS, PEI, or Canada. We have scarves and toques left over from previous years, but we are in dire need of shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream and work gloves.

Common Cup: As part of our cautionary approach in dealing with Covid 19 and other communicable illness, we continue to offer two options for the receiving of communion wine: the common cup and a second cup from which a medicine dropper is used to place wine upon the host. You are invited to make the choice that is best for you and cross to the appropriate chalice after receiving the host. **Note:** Dipping of the wafer (intinction) is not permitted in the common cup.

Our next **parish book club** meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 14th after worship. The book for discussion will be The Age of Insecurity: Coming Together as Things Fall Apart by Astra Taylor. All are welcome to join in the parish hall meeting room for the discussion.

Our **Mitten Tree** has gone up for another year. We welcome your handmade or purchased donations of mittens and scarves to share with our local schools. Please note: we are not accepting hats this year.

For the taking: There are a number of small wooden crosses on the table at the back of the church. They were made by a community member with branches from the tree that was felled on the church lawn during hurricane Fiona. You are welcome to take one and consider leaving a small donation for the Food Bank in the jar on the table. This is the request of the creator of the crosses and any proceeds will be donated to the Food Bank.

Offerings Update: End of October year to date total offerings received were \$131,212 putting us behind \$6,056 from where we need to be in order to meet our 2023 offerings budget. Nov. 26th offerings totaled \$692.

Christmas Angels are at the back of the church. You may write the name of someone you want remembered in prayer this Christmas on an angel and we will place it on our Christmas tree.

Those wishing to place **memorials** in the church at Christmas are asked to contact Angela (897-0566 or stjohnstruro@ns.sympatico.ca) by **Monday, Dec. 18th** with their bulletin dedications for poinsettia or monetary memorials. Poinsettia drop off will be Wednesday, Dec. 20 and Thursday, Dec. 21 at the office and Saturday, Dec. 23 from 10:00 – 10:30 in the church.

Christmas Index Program 2023: Again this year, we will be supporting 30 families in our local area with Christmas dinner and other groceries. As always, we appreciate your help in making this project a success! Each week we will be asking for two items and you are asked to bring in only one of them the following week. These items can then be deposited in our grocery cart. We will also be accepting items at the link entrance to the hall each Tuesday from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Any items left over after preparing our boxes will be donated to the Food Bank:

Sunday, Oct. 15 can of vegetables (398 ml)/can of baked beans (398 ml)

Sunday, Oct. 22 can of soup (any kind)/can of tuna

Sunday, Oct. 29 bottle of jam (500 ml)/bottle of peanut butter (500 ml)

Sunday, Nov. 5 box of crackers (500 gr)/box of cereal (500 gr)

Sunday, Nov. 12 can of juice (1.8L)/small can of fruit (398 ml)

Sunday, Nov. 19 Package of cookies (454 gr)/box of stove top stuffing

Sunday, Nov. 26 can of cranberry sauce or jelly/box of 30 tea bags

Sunday, Dec. 3 3 boxes Kraft dinner/bag of Christmas candy (300 gr)

Sunday, Dec. 10 tub margarine (454 gr)/Monetary donations toward the purchase of potatoes, turnips and carrots.

Note: Please remember to check the expiry date on the items you give – they will not be used until December and we are unable to distribute outdated items. We will also need cloth grocery bags for delivery.

ACW Church Calendars for 2024 are delayed. They will not be available until the New Year.

Christmas Gift Idea: We have a number of left over items from our 2020 celebrations which are now on sale at reduced process. There are pewter ornaments, large and small puzzles and tidbit historical booklets. Ornaments are \$5, tidbit booklets \$10, small puzzles \$10, large puzzles \$15 (or 2 puzzles for \$20). Please contact the office if interested.

Christmas Worship/Events:

Each Sunday in Advent – Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Worship

Sunday, Dec. 10th - 7:00 p.m. Peace Service

Sunday, Dec. 17th – 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant + Prayer service (no Eucharist)

Monday, Dec. 18th – 6:00 p.m. Decorating of the church

Sunday, Dec. 24th – No Morning Worship
4:00 p.m. Children's Eucharist
7:00 p.m. Family Eucharist

Christmas Day – 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday, Dec. 31st – 10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols for Christmas

CNIB is looking for **volunteers** in the Truro area. Volunteer for a couple of hours a week to help someone who is blind or partially sighted. You'll make a direct impact with your one-to-one match as you provide sighted assistance with reading, organizing, going for walks or running errands. Training is provided! To apply or find out more info visit www.cnib.ca, call or text 902-456-5982, or email jeff.deville@cnib.ca

Families who have experienced the loss of loved ones may find comfort in joining together for a memorial service in their honour during the upcoming Christmas season. We, at Mattatall - Varner Funeral Home, cordially invite you to attend our **Christmas Memorial Service** that will be held 2:30 p.m., Sunday, December 3rd at Mattatall - Varner Funeral Home, 55 Young St. Non perishable food items and monetary donations will be accepted for the Colchester Food Bank. We hope that you will be able to join us for this special service. The service will also be live streamed, beginning at 2:25 p.m., so that you can also join from the comfort of your home."

Coming up in the next few weeks at First United:

- **Handel's Messiah**, presented by Cantabile Singers, on Saturday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. (tickets available at the office and <https://ticketstripe.com/CantabileHandelsMessiah>)

- **Brigid Trio's Christmas Concert** (featuring Resonance) on Friday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m.

- Creative Voices' **"The Wonder of Christmas"** featuring Truro Youth Singers on Saturday, December 16 at 3:00 p.m.

- **Brenna Conrad's Studio Recital** on Sunday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. (admission by donation)

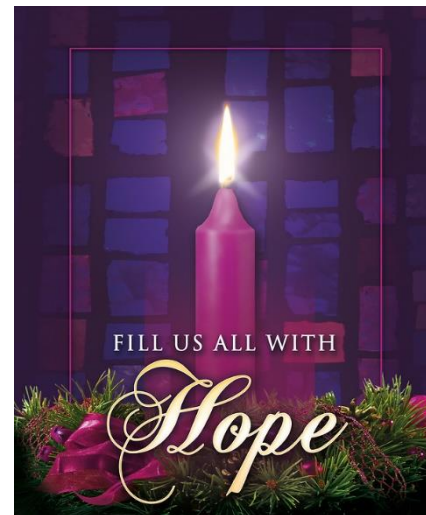
December 10th at First United Church – 11:45 – 2 pm. Pantry table and **Mini Craft Market** will be held in the hall.

The Nova New Horizons Bands will be presenting **A Christmas Cabaret** at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 14 in the First United Church Memorial Hall. All are welcome - refreshments will be available. Admission \$15.00 for Adults and \$10.00 for children.



First Sunday in Advent

December 3rd, 2023



Rector: Rev'd Lori Ramsey



Wardens: Elaine MacInnis and Neil Harris

PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME FOR FUTURE REFERENCE